

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4303

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJ: FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS REAFFIRM THEIR POSITION ON GENEVA
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: FOUR FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS MET TOGETHER AND THEN
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS OCT 17.
NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, BUT END OF MEETINGS, NYERERE,
SPEAKING FOR THE FOUR PRESIDENTS, SUMMARIZED FOR THE PRESS
RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS. PRESIDENTS REAFFIRMED POSITION TAKEN
AT THEIR LAST MEETING IN LUSAKA SEPT 26 -- ACCEPTED THE HOLDING
OF A CONFERENCE TO START PROCESS OF TURNING POWER OVER TO THE
MAJORITY IN RHODESIA, BUT REJECTED THE DETAILS IN SMITH'S
PROPOSAL AS TO HOW CONFERENCE SHOULD BE SET UP AND REJECTED
SMITH'S PROPOSAL AS TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENTS CALLED FOR THE BRITISH TO ASSUME THEIR
FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE COLONIAL POWER, NOT ONLY AT THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO BY APPOINTING SOMEONE TO ASSUME
AUTHORITY IN RHODESIA DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. GUERRILLA
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ATTACKS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL POWER IS TRANSFERRED TO THE MAJORITY.

ONCE POWER IS TRANSFERRED, ZIPA WILL ACCEPT THIS AND FIGHTING WILL CEASE. IT IS TOO LATE TO TALK ABOUT FORMING A PATRIOTIC FRONT; PRESIDENTS ARE ASSUMING THAT THIS ALREADY EXISTS. NO MENTION OF SITHOLE WAS MADE DURING PRESS CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, MEDIA IN LUSAKA ARE SAYING THAT PRESIDENTS DECIDED TO ASK BRITISH TO INVITE SITHOLE. MEDIA ALSO ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT OF FORMAL CONFERENCE OPENING UNTIL OCT 28. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENTS MET FOR THREE HOURS TOGETHER MORNING OF OCT 17, THEN BROKE FOR LUNCH, AFTER WHICH THEY MET WITH RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. THESE INCLUDED MUZOREWA, MUGABE AND NHANGO AND OTHERS OF ZIPA AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS DEPARTURE, NYERERE, SPEAKING FOR THE FOUR PRESIDENTS SUMMARIZED THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS.

REAFFIRMATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT SEPT 27 MEETING -- PRESIDENTS AGREE THAT A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FORMED; INDEPENDENCE CAN FOLLOW. PRESIDENTS REJECTED CERTAIN SPECIFICS IN SMITH PROPOSAL. CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN RHODESIA. COUNCIL OF STATE AND ITS POWERS AS OUTLINED BY SMITH ARE UNACCEPTABLE AS IS HIS SUGGESTION THAT CERTAIN PORTFOLIOS SHOULD BE RETAINED BY WHITES. IN SHORT, SAID NYERERE, PRESIDENTS REJECTED ALL OF THE DETAILS OF SMITH'S PROPOSAL WHILE ACCEPTING THE IDEA OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

2. BRITISH SHOULD ASSUME AUTHORITY OF COLONIAL POWER -- THERE ARE REGULAR PROCEDURES FOR CALLING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE; THE COLONIZING POWER HAS THIS RESPONSIBILITY. SMITH HAS NO BUSINESS IN CALLING SUCH A CONFERENCE; THIS IS FOR THE BRITISH TO DO. THERE SHOULD BE NO EXCEPTION MADE IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA. PRESIDENTS HAD THOUGHT BRITISH WOULD CALL THE CONFERENCE IN LONDON, BUT GENEVA IS FINE, AND THEY ARE PLEASED THAT THE CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE. PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO TRANSFER POWER FROM THE MINORITY IN RHODESIA TO THE MAJORITY. NYERERE WENT ON TO SAY, "WE ARE NOT ASKING THE BRITISH TO FACILITATE A CONFERENCE. WE WERE ASKING THEM TO CALL A CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ARE CALLING. WE DON'T EXPECT THEM TO ACT AS UMPIRES. UMPIRES BETWEEN WHOM AND WHOM? THE BRITISH ARE THE IMPERIAL POWER. THEY CANNOT BE UMPIRES BETWEEN SMITH AND THE NATIONALISTS. THEY HAVE NEVER ACTED AS UMPIRES ANYWHERE ELSE IN ANY OTHER COLONY. SO WE DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO ACT AS UMPIRES IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICULAR CASE. WE EXPECT THEM TO ASSUME THEIR FULL RESPONSIBILITY AS A COLONIAL POWER AND DISCUSS WITH THE NATIONALIST LEADERS THE TRANSFER OF POWER." IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE BRITISH ROLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, NYERERE SAID, "WE ARE SAYING SECONDLY THAT THE BRITISH DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD MUST LET THE MAJORITY GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER THESE POWERS (POWERS TRANSFERRED FROM BRITAIN AS THE COLONIAL POWER). THE RESIDUAL POWERS SHOULD BE HELD BY THE BRITISH --

THAT'S PART OF THIS ACCEPTING OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY. THE PERSON THEY APPOINT, WHETHER THEY CALL HIM GOVERNOR GENERAL OR WHOEVER THEY APPOINT -- WHAT THEY CALL HIM, I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE EXPECT THAT THE ASSUMPTION OF THEIR RESIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL REQUIRE THEM TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH."

4. WAR OF LIBERATION -- ASKED ABOUT THE WAR OF LIBERATION, NYERERE SAID, "ZIPA WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING. WE ARE SAYING THAT THERE IS A WAR OF LIBERATION. THAT WAR WILL CONTINUE UNTIL POWER HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED. QE PURPOSE OF THE WAR IS THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE MINORITY TO THE MAJORITY. THE STRUGGLE WILL NOW CONTINUE ON TWO FRONTS. IT WILL CONTINUE IN THE BATTLEFIELD AND AT GENEVA." "IF GENEVA REACHES AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS SATISFACTORY, ZIPA WILL BE HAPPY. THEY ARE DYING FOR LIBERATION, NOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF DYING."

5. TALKS WITH RHODESIAN NATIONALIST -- TALKS HAD FOCUSED ON THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE POINTS AS GIVEN ABOVE, NYERERE SAID. THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE FORMATION OF A PATRIOTIC FRONT. "WE ARE ASSUMING THERE IS A PATRIOTIC FRONT."

6. COMMENT -- MOOD AS REFLECTED AT AIRPORT AND AT STATE HOUSE WAS RELAXED AND CONFIDENT. VERY DIFFERENT FROM TENSE ATMOSPHERE WHICH CHARACTERIZED SEPT 26 MEETING.
LOW

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